

For the Record

A third **VH-71** test vehicle arrived at the Presidential Helicopter Support Facility, NAS Patuxent River, Md., on 17 March. The VH-71 testing program has accumulated more than 650 flight hours to date.

The Navy's newest carrier, Precommissioning Unit **George H. W. Bush** (CVN 77) conducted catapult testing on 25 January at Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard, Va. The ship's namesake, former President and WWII aviator George H. W. Bush, signaled the launch of two dead loads from the carrier's flight deck.

The first Navy-owned **Scan Eagle** test vehicle made its first flight, on 29 February at NAWS China Lake, Calif. Previous testing of the unmanned aerial vehicle



The first Navy-owned Scan Eagle prepares to launch on its first flight at NAWS China Lake, Calif.

had been conducted with contractor-owned test vehicles. While the Scan Eagle has logged more than 50,000 operational hours in Iraq, the Naval Unmanned Systems Integration Activity and the NAVAIR Unmanned Systems Technical Project Office continue to test new



ATC1 Carl Jollif and ATC1 Victor Grant perform a site-acceptance test on the Adacel MaxSim Air Traffic Control Tower Simulator System at NAS Key West, Fla. The new system draws from a database of high-resolution images to produce a nearly exact representation of the airfield and local operating procedures. Photo by MC2 Timothy Cox.

capabilities such as video targeting, payload modifications, and rapid deployment, while developing a concept of operations to integrate the unmanned system into the local airspace.

Mishaps

On 4 March a T-45C Goshawk of VT-9 crashed during landing at NAS Meridian, Miss. Both aviators ejected safely.

A VAW-125 E-2C+ Hawkeye suffered Class A damage from a collapsed nose gear when it landed short

of the runway during a single-engine emergency landing at NS Norfolk, Va.

The pilot of an AV-8B Harrier II assigned to HMM-365 ejected safely on 13 February at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., when an attempted air start failed.

On 12 February an EA-6B Prowler of VAQ-136 crashed at sea during a training exercise off Andersen AFB, Guam. The four aviators ejected safely.

On 21 January an EA-6B Prowler of VAQ-136 suffered Class A damage when an engine bay fire occurred during a high power turn on the tarmac at NAF Atsugi, Japan.

A VMM-263 MV-22 Osprey approaches a landing zone to extract ground forces in the Al-Jazirah desert, Iraq, on 12 March. Photo by LCpl. Michael Stevens.

